

REMARKS

The status of all the pending claims in this application is as shown above. In many instances through the amendments above, Applicants have endeavored to place claims in condition for allowance that the Examiner had indicated were allowable. Accordingly, such amendments have not been made for purposes of patentability, but instead have been made to place them in the form recommended by the Examiner. Accordingly, with respect to the claims that may issue from this application, Applicants have not surrendered any subject matter or otherwise amended the claims for reasons related to patentability, and the scope of the claims, under the doctrine of equivalents or otherwise, should not be limited by the above amendments.

Declaration

The declaration was objected to as being defective because the first page of the declaration was missing. A new, complete, and executed declaration has been submitted herewith along with the fee for the late submission of the declaration.

Specification

The specification is objected to due to informalities. The specification has been amended to remove the informalities and conform to the drawings. Several other minor grammatical and typographical errors have also been fixed with these amendments. No new matter has been added.

Drawings

A substitute formal drawing for Figure 11 has been included with this amendment. This new drawing corrects an error in the prior drawing by replacing the reference number "104" with "106" and the reference number "106" with "104." No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-16 and 32-41 were objected to because of informalities. The Examiner regarded the recitation "without introducing retardation" in claims 1 and 32 to be a misnomer. Applicants has addressed this informality by amending claims 1 and 33 (which has been combined with claim 32 to have the limitations of both) to refer to "composite retardation." The composite retardation, as well as the optical rotation, refers to the overall behavior of the retarder stack. Each of the individual films have individual contributions, but the overall behavior of the claimed retarder stack is to cause optical rotation to light of a first spectrum substantially without introducing composite retardation.

Claim 58, which was also objected to, has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as anticipated by Buhrer (U.S. Patent No. 4,992,938). Claim 33, however, which depended from claim 32 was indicated as having allowable subject matter. Applicants have canceled claim 32, mooted this rejection, and have amended all of the claims depending from claim 32 to include the limitations of claim 32, according to the Examiner's indication that these claims would be allowable if so rewritten.

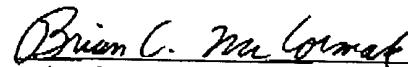
Given that these amendments are made solely as a matter of form to constitute them in their independent form that was indicated by the Examiner as allowable, these amendments are not made for purposes of patentability. Accordingly, Applicants have not surrendered any subject matter or otherwise amended these claims for reasons related to patentability, and the scope of the claims, under the doctrine of equivalents or otherwise, should not be limited by the above amendments.

Claim 41 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), but it has been amended to depend from novel claim 33, and accordingly this rejection is moot.

Claims 50 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Louis (U.S. Patent No. 5,202,704) and Claims 52 and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Miller (U.S. Patent No. 6,373,614). Applicants have cancelled these claims without prejudice, and accordingly these rejections are rendered moot.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of all rejections and objections, and allowance of all claims. If Examiner has any questions regarding this response or the Application in general, Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at the below-listed telephone number. Applicants have enclosed a fee sheet and reimbursement for any additional claims fees, and do not believe that any other fees are required with the filing of this response; however, in the event that additional fees are necessary to complete this filing, please deduct only those additional amounts from deposit account no. 13-0480 (Attorney Docket No. 95121961.201001) that are necessary to complete this filing.

Respectfully Submitted,



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